

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 763

By Harmon

A RESOLUTION to recognize Claire Hooper Drowota on the occasion of her retirement.

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that the members of this legislative body should honor those citizens who have performed with uncommon devotion and enthusiasm throughout their years of public service; and

WHEREAS, Claire Hooper Drowota is one such estimable person who served with distinction the Tennessee General Assembly with distinction from 1985 until her much-deserved retirement on October 1, 2007; and

WHEREAS, Claire Drowota began her exemplary tenure with the General Assembly as a Journal Clerk for the House of Representatives before being appointed to the Ad Hoc Staff for Preparation for a Special Session on Corrections; and

WHEREAS, highly regarded by her peers and members of the General Assembly alike, Mrs. Drowota was selected as Executive Director of the newly created Select Oversight Committee on Corrections in 1986; she then served as Executive Director of this Joint Senate and House Committee for over twenty years, distinguishing herself as a public-spirited citizen of the highest order and as an exceptional asset to the people of this state; and

WHEREAS, throughout her illustrious years with the State of Tennessee, Claire Drowota lent her professional talents as staff chair to the National Conference of State Legislature's Criminal Justice Committee, and served on the American Correctional Association's Legislative Affairs Committee, the National Jail and Prison Overcrowding Project, the Mayor's Crime Summit, the U.S. Attorney General's Summit on Corrections, as well as the Steering Committee for the Tennessee Criminal Justice Summit in 2004, and 2006; and

WHEREAS, she co-authored *State and Local Corrections: A Coordinated Strategy for Tennessee*, 1989, and *Comparative Evaluations of Privately-managed CCA Prison and State-managed Prototypical Prisons*, 1995, 1999, and 2005; and

WHEREAS, in addition to her professional achievements, Mrs. Drowota is an active and important part of her community, serving as a member of the Board of Directors for Renewal House; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Drowota has also contributed her time and numerous talents to a variety of other notable causes, including serving on the boards of the Junior League of Nashville, Girl Scout Council of Cumberland Valley, Buddies of Nashville, YWCA, and Woodmont Christian Church; and

WHEREAS, she is an active and devout member of Woodmont Christian Church, which she has served faithfully for many years and in numerous positions, including first chair of the Board of the Mothers Day Out Program, Youth Group Leader, Sunday School Teacher, member of the Visioning Committee, Deacon, Secretary of the congregation, Chair of the Outreach Committee, and member of the Personnel Committee; and

WHEREAS, she assisted in creating and developing the first Victim/Witness Services program in Nashville and served as Volunteer Coordinator to train volunteers in assisting victims and witnesses through the court process; and

WHEREAS, as a young child, Claire Drowota attended Parmer School, now Parmer Park; she transferred to The Ensworth School in the eight grade in 1958, and holds the distinct honor of being a member of Ensworth's first graduating class; and

WHEREAS, she went on to attend Harpeth Hall and Wellesley College, and eventually graduated from Vanderbilt University in 1967; and

WHEREAS, Claire Drowota enjoys the loving companionship of her husband, Frank F. Drowota III, a former member and Chief Justice of the Tennessee Supreme Court, who she married in 1965; together they are the proud parents of Helen Close and Frank Russell Drowota; and

WHEREAS, in addition to spending time with her five grandchildren, Mrs. Drowota also enjoys traveling, snow skiing, biking, hiking, and tennis; and

WHEREAS, Claire Drowota exemplifies the spirit and allegiance to family and community that are characteristic of a true Tennessean; and

WHEREAS, throughout her estimable career, she has demonstrated the utmost professionalism, ability, and integrity, winning the unbridled respect and admiration of her colleagues and professionals from all three branches of government; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we extend to Claire Hooper Drowota our heartfelt wishes for a happy and fulfilling retirement, thank her for her many years of meritorious service to the citizens of Tennessee as Executive Director of the Select Oversight Committee on Corrections, and wish her every continued success in her future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.